

2 Samuel 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

Analysis

So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Kindness to Mephibosheth, emphasizing covenant faithfulness, grace. David's kindness to Mephibosheth illustrates *chesed* (חֶסֶד, covenant faithfulness/loyal love). This grace shown to Jonathan's crippled son demonstrates covenant loyalty transcending political expedience. The narrative foreshadows God's grace toward spiritually crippled humanity. Cross-references to David and Jonathan's covenant (1 Samuel 18:3, 20:14-17) and New Testament grace themes enrich understanding.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 9 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding covenant faithfulness, grace provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid

anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of covenant faithfulness, grace?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

וּמְפִיבֹשֶׁת	יָשָׁב	בִּיר וּשְׁלָם	כִּי	עַל	שֻׁלְחָן	הָמֶלֶךְ
So Mephibosheth	dwelt	in Jerusalem	H3588	H5921	table	at the king's
H4648	H3427	H3389			H7979	H4428

תָּמָּ יָד	וְהָיָא	אֲכָל	וְהָיָא	פֶּסֶחַ	שְׁתֵּי	בְּגָלְיוֹ:
continually		for he did eat		and was lame	on both	his feet
H8548	H1931	H398	H1931	H6455	H8147	H7272

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 9:7 (Parallel theme): And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

